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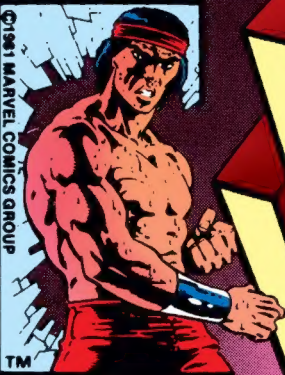
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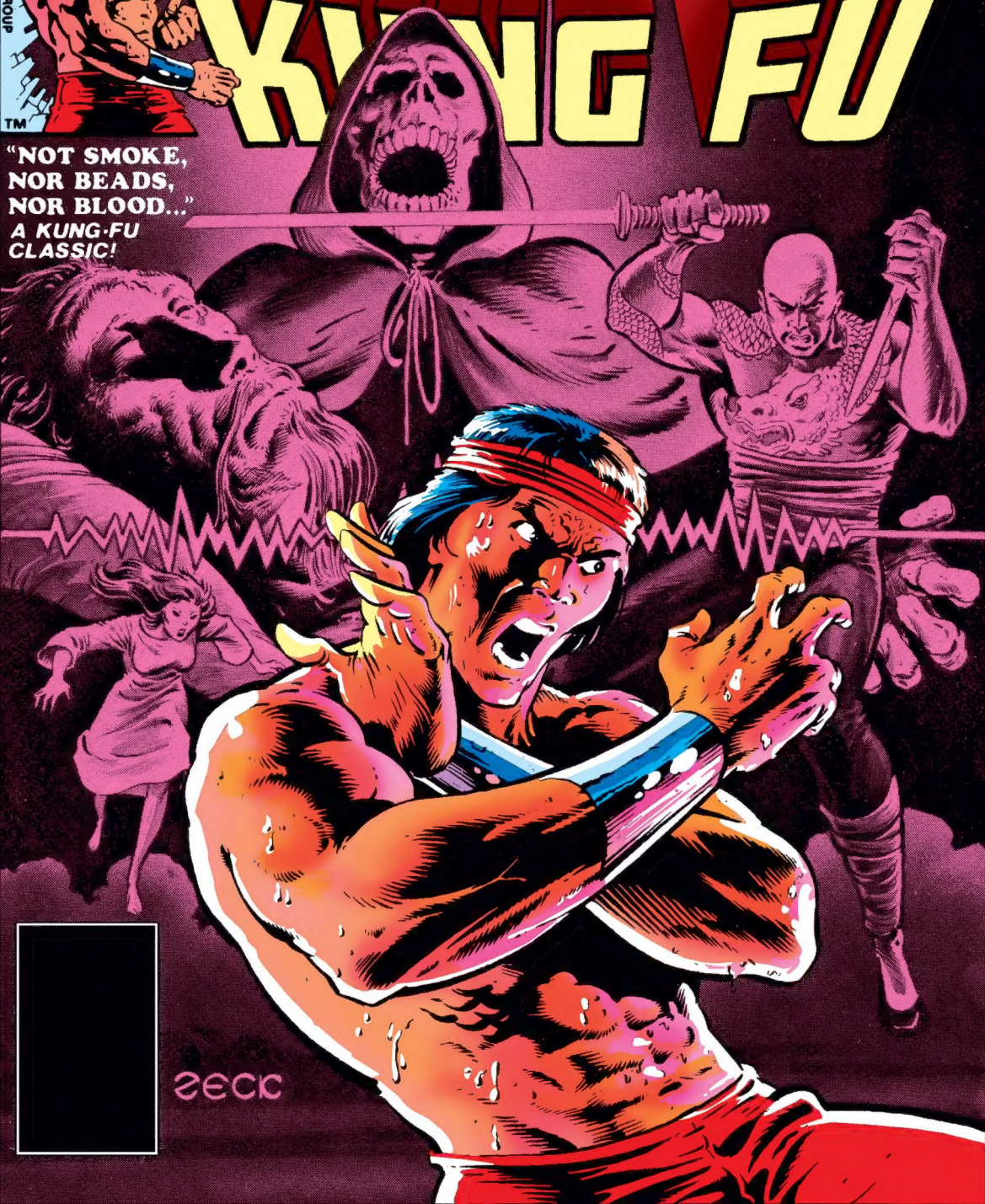


THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNG FU



"NOT SMOKE,
NOR BEADS,
NOR BLOOD..."
A KUNG-FU
CLASSIC!



2500

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**."

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

NOT SMOKE, NOR BEADS, NOR BLOOD!

"THE HOSPITAL IN LONDON..."

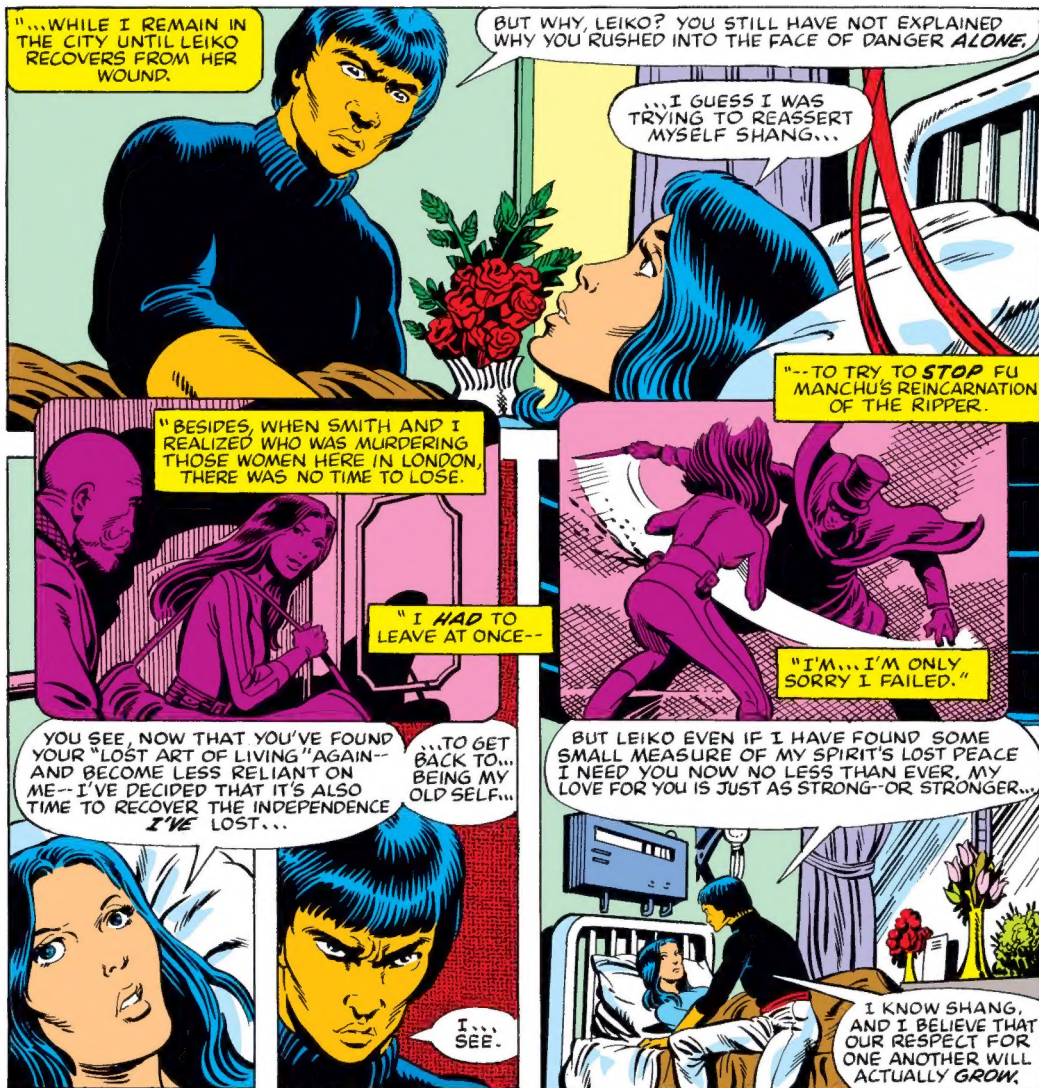
GET WELL
QUICKLY, LEIKO,
HEAR?

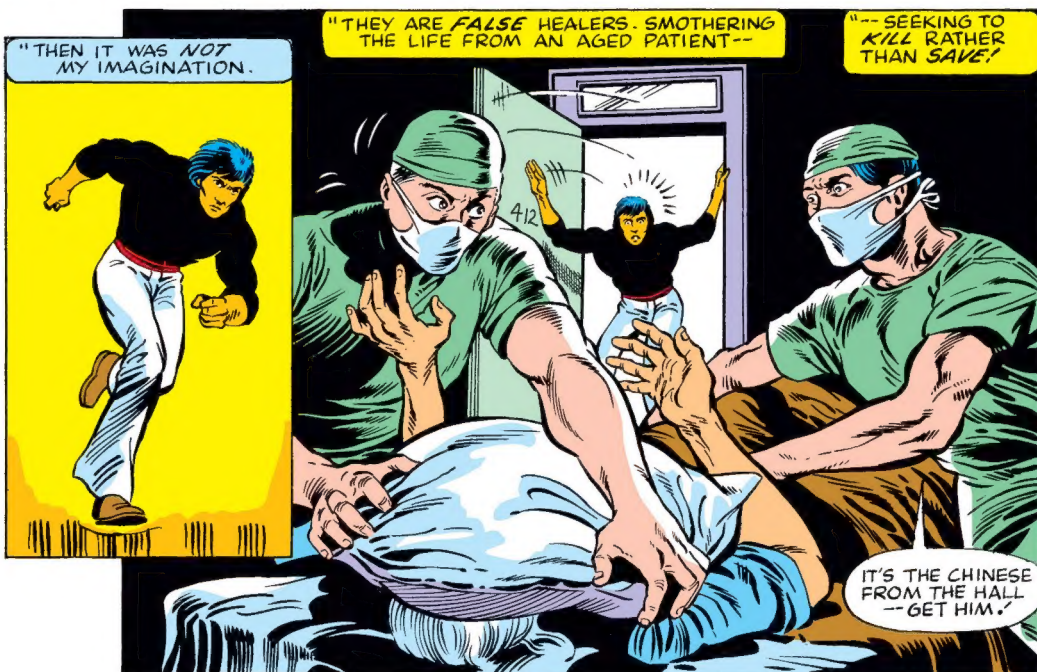
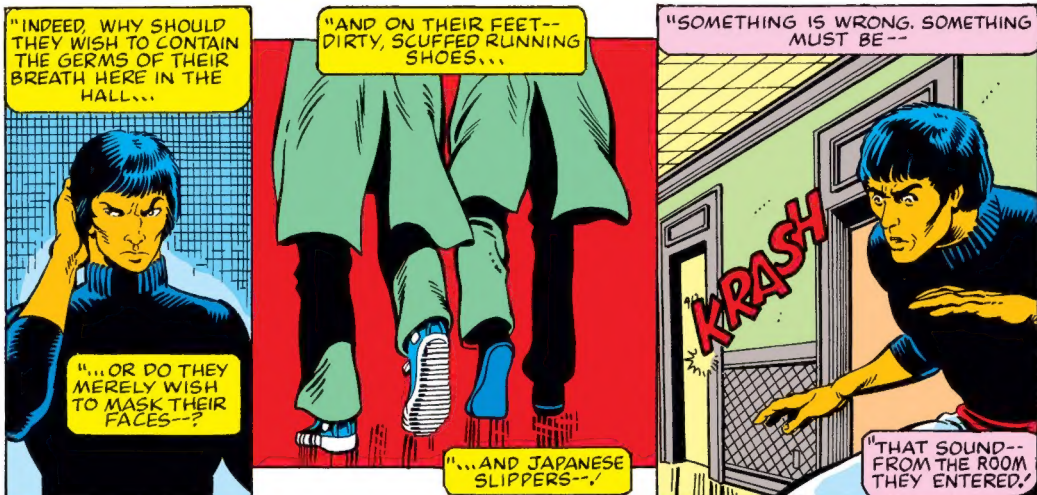
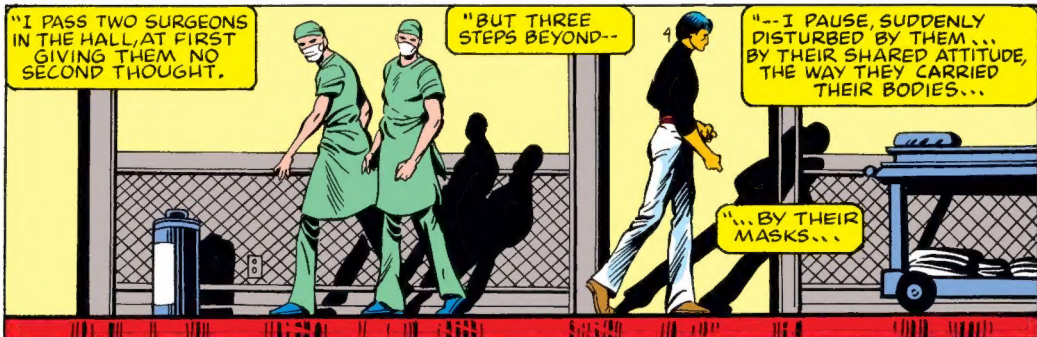
I'LL DO MY BEST,
MELISSA. AND
THANKS FOR THE
FLOWERS BOTH
OF YOU.

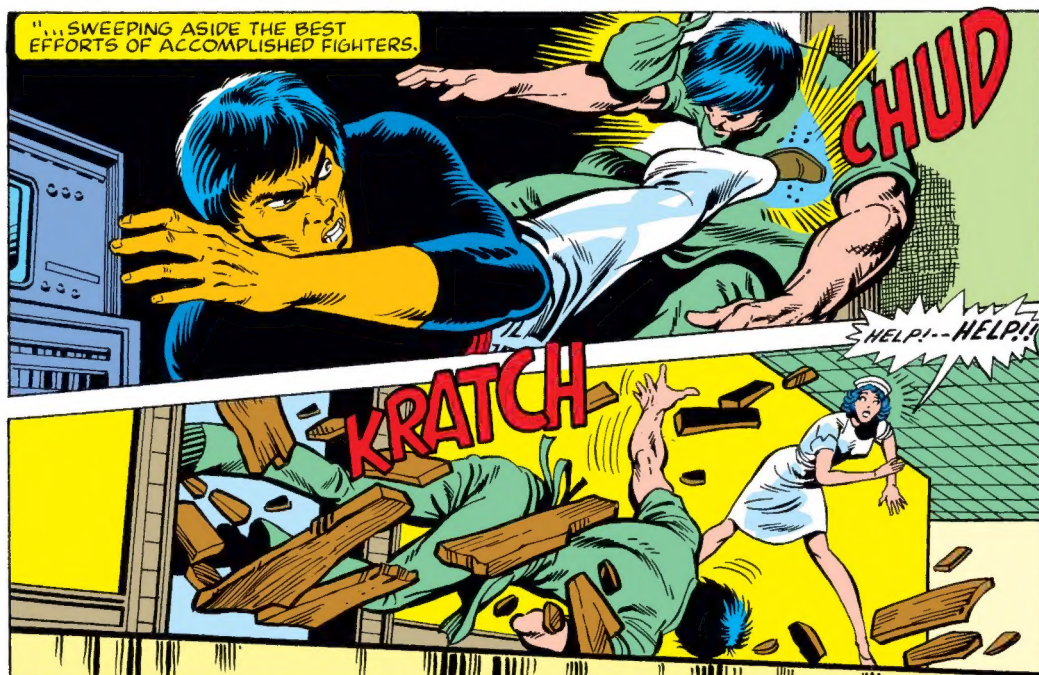
JOURNEY SAFELY
-- WE SHALL SEE
YOU AGAIN IN
SEVERAL WEEKS.

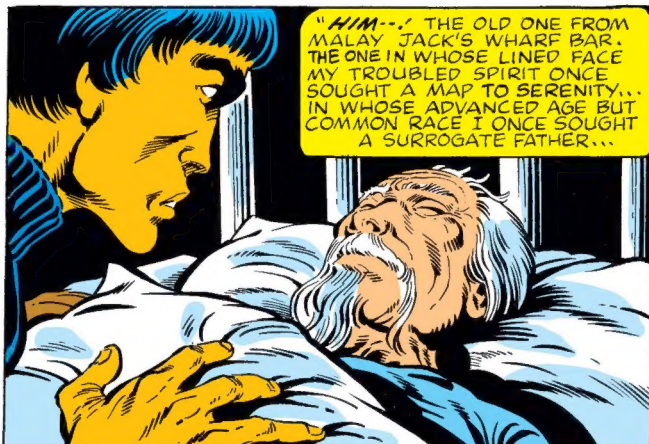
"...WHERE MELISSA GREVILLE
AND CLIVE RESTON DEPART
FOR NAYLAND SMITH'S
SCOTTISH CASTLE..."

DOUG MOENCH MIKE ZECK GENE DAY JANICE CHIANG BOB SHAREN JIM SALICRUP JIM SHOOTER
WRITER/PLOT ARTIST INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF









"AND SINCE THAT FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH THE OLD ONE, THE KNOWLEDGE HAS NAGGED ME...SHAMED ME..."

"NOW I MEET HIM AGAIN, FACING A CHANCE TO ATONE, ONLY TO FIND HIM ...

"... DEAD?"

"NO."

SH-SHANG-CHI...HE WHOSE NAME MEANS "THE RISING AND ADVANCING OF A SPIRIT". BUT HAS YOUR SPIRIT RISEN, FINALLY... TO JOIN ME... IN THE HEAVENS...?"

YOU ARE NOT DEAD, OLD ONE. THE TWO ASSASSINS FAILED.

THEN TELL ME, SHANG-CHI... HAVE YOU YET LEARNED TO REMAIN TRUE TO THE SPIRIT OF YOUR NAME...OR DOES THE **SOUND** OF YOUR NAME STILL SIGNAL NOTHING BUT VIOLENCE...?

BOTH, OLD ONE...

... BUT I HAVE LEARNED, AT LAST OR AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, TO COME TO TERMS WITH EACH.

THEN WE HAVE EXCHANGED PLACES, YOU AND I, YOUNG SHANG-CHI. WHERE ONCE YOU PLEADED WITH ME TO HELP SALVAGE YOUR LIFE... I MUST PLEAD WITH YOU, NOW, TO LITERALLY **SAVE** MY LIFE...

NO. YOU HAVE JUST RENDERED TWO ASSASSINS UNCONSCIOUS. LIMEHOUSE CRAWLS WITH THEIR BROTHERS, AND THEY NEVER TRULY DIE. I ONCE TOLD YOU, SHANG-CHI, THAT WE DO WHAT WE MUST, ONCE I THOUGHT I MUST DO SOMETHING. I SOLD OPIUM.

NOW I KNOW I WAS WRONG, AND I MUST DO THE OPPOSITE--STOP THOSE WHO SELL THE DRUG BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE... BEFORE THEY STOP ME, TO ENSURE MY SILENCE...

I TOLD YOU -- I JUST DID.

"I HAVE SOLD DREAMS ALL MY LIFE, BUT I HAVE GAINED NOTHING FROM THESE DARK BARTERS, NOTHING BUT A FORM OF PROFITLESS EXPERIENCE... AND I HAVE PAID DEARLY FOR THIS EXPERIENCE WITH THE COIN OF LIFE... EMPTYING A PURSE THAT CAN NEVER BE REFILLED..."

AND YET, THIS DEGRADING AND PROFITLESS EXPERIENCE OF LIFE IS MOST PRECIOUS TO ME, FOR IT IS ALL THAT I NOW HAVE... IT, AND AN AGE OF MANY NUMBERS...

WHY DID THEY TRY TO KILL YOU, OLD ONE?

THE OPIUM TRADE HAS CHANGED THE NEW PURVEYORS MAKING IT EVEN MORE SORDID AND DEGRADING, SELLING DREAMS TO CHILDREN AND WOMEN, THEN SELLING THE DRUG-LOST CHILDREN AND WOMEN THEMSELVES. SOME OF THESE DEALERS ARE STILL CHINESE, SOME CAUCASIAN, AND SOME JAPANESE... THE YAKUZA.

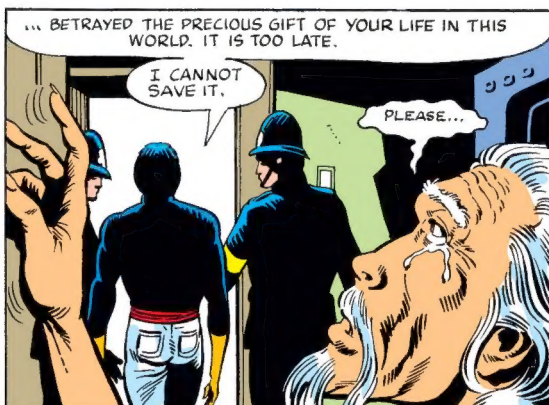
BUT ALL ARE GANGSTERS, ALL ARE MONSTERS.

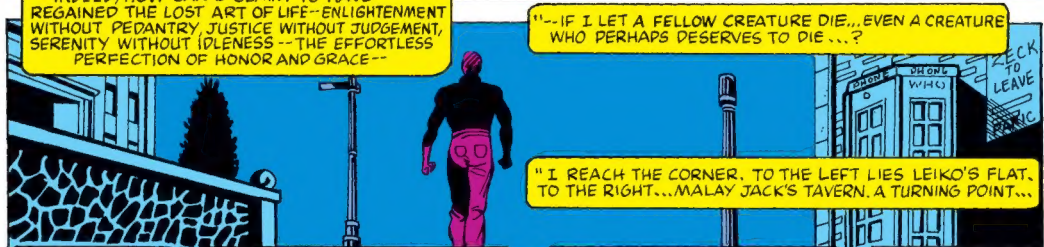
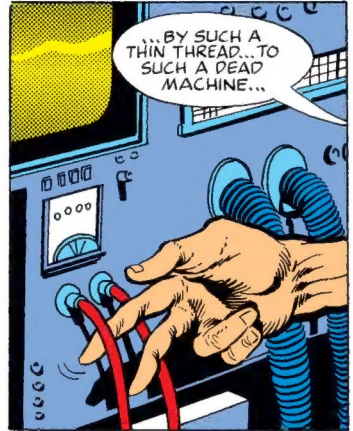
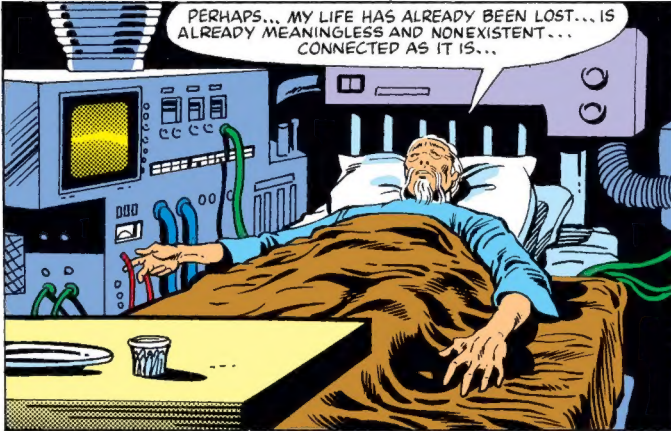
"IT WAS TOO LATE TO ATONE FOR MY OWN PAST, I KNEW THAT... BUT I ALSO KNEW THE OTHERS HAD TO BE STOPPED, AND I POSSESSED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR DEALINGS TO STOP THEM..."

PKOW

"BUT SOMEHOW THEY KNEW..."

"...AND THEY TRIED TO STOP ME."





"LONDON'S LIMEHOUSE DISTRICT... AND AGAIN THE BOATS ON FOG-BOUND WATERS CRY THEIR MOURNFUL, MOCKING QUESTION..."



"WHO...?"

SO LONG FINE

"... THE ONE WHO WEARS A SUIT OF INK ..."

"YOU WISH TO SMOKE? A WOMAN? A CHILD, PERHAPS..."

"COME WITH ME. ALL AWAITS YOU IN THE BACK..."



"I AM SHANG-CHI, A FATHERLESS SON BY CHOICE, BUT ONLY BECAUSE I HAVE CHOSEN THE LESSER OF THE TWO EVILS--AND I MUST HONOR THE SPIRIT OF MY NAME. IF THE OLD ONE SPOKE IN TRUTH, THEN HE MUST BE SAVED... AND THE YAKUZA STOPPED."



"INSIDE--THE ONE HE SPOKE OF..."



"I MOVE DEEPER INTO THE FOG DRIFTING FROM THE RIVER."

"YES... THERE IS A REAR WINDOW, TOO..."

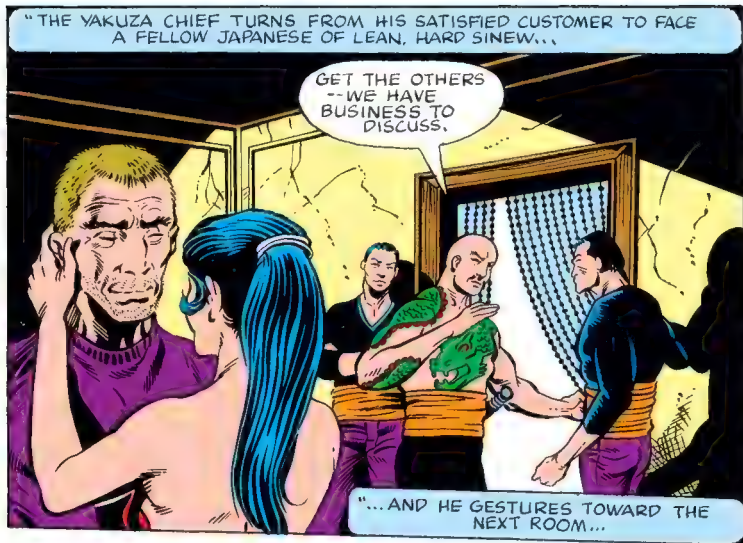


"INSIDE, THE SMOKE IS THICKER THAN THE OUTER FOG..."

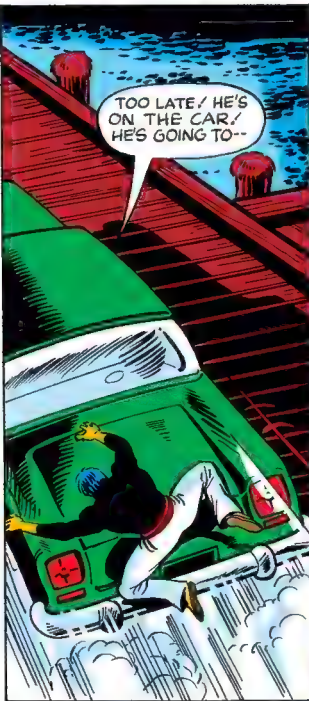
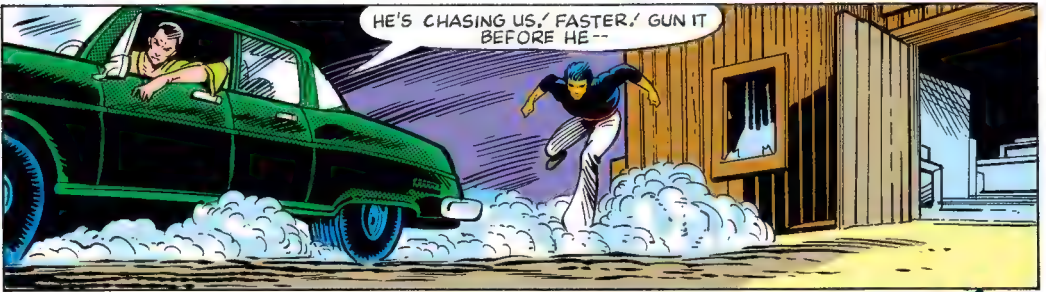
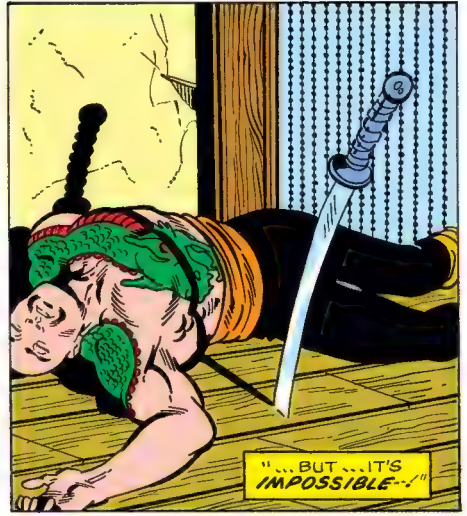
"HERE-- DESPITE HER AGE, THIS ONE IS WISE IN THE ETERNAL WAYS OF WOMEN, ATTUNED TO THE ETERNAL WAYS OF MEN."

ENJOY.

"THE OLD ONE, THEN DID NOT LIE ABOUT THIS MUCH..."









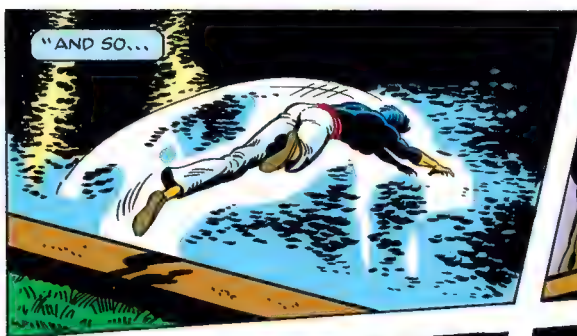


"THE BRIDGE..."

"TO REACH THE HOSPITAL, THEY MUST CROSS THE RIVER."

"AND SO MUST I."

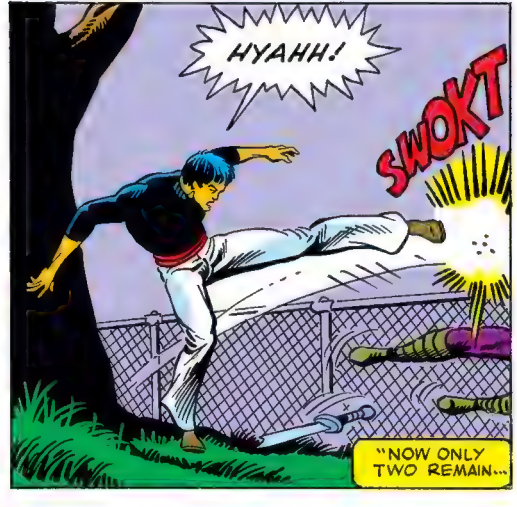
"BUT BY USING THE BRIDGE, I CAN NEVER HOPE TO CATCH THEM."

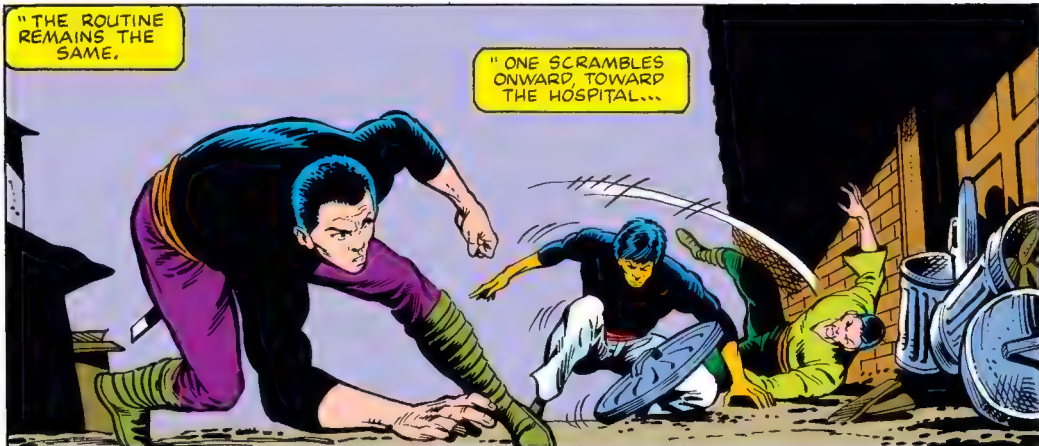


"AND SO..."



THE CHINESE AGAIN.
BUT *HOW*--?!



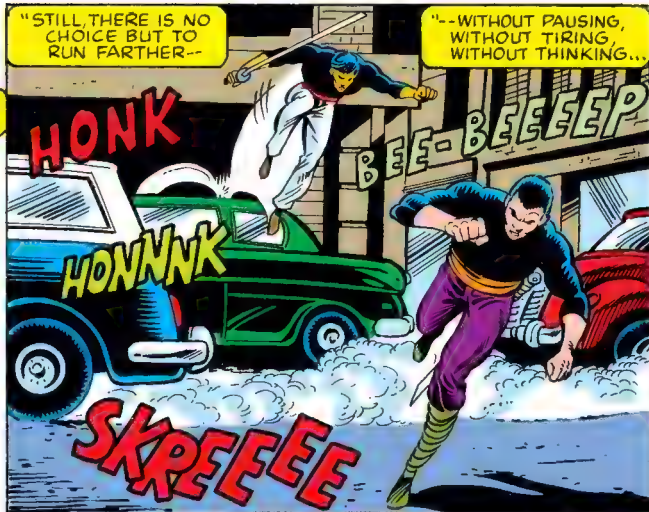


"HIS PANIC NOW, CARRIES HIM STRAIGHT FOR THE HOSPITAL."

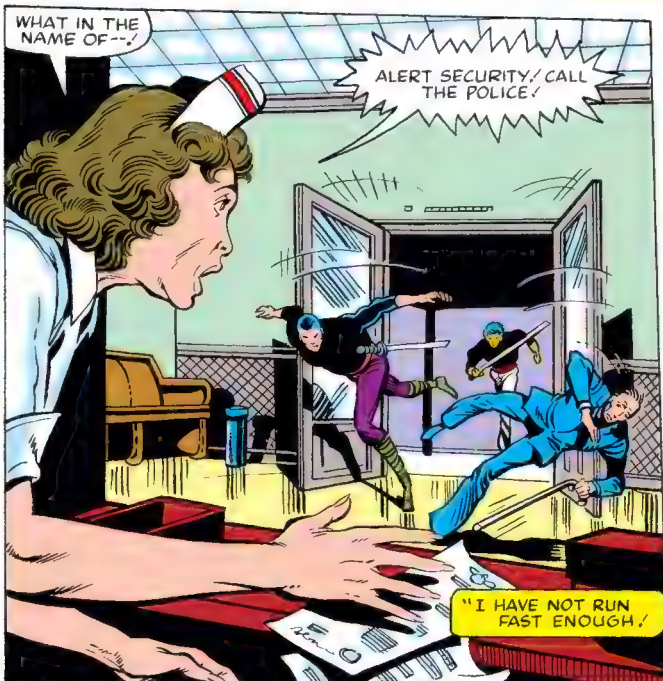
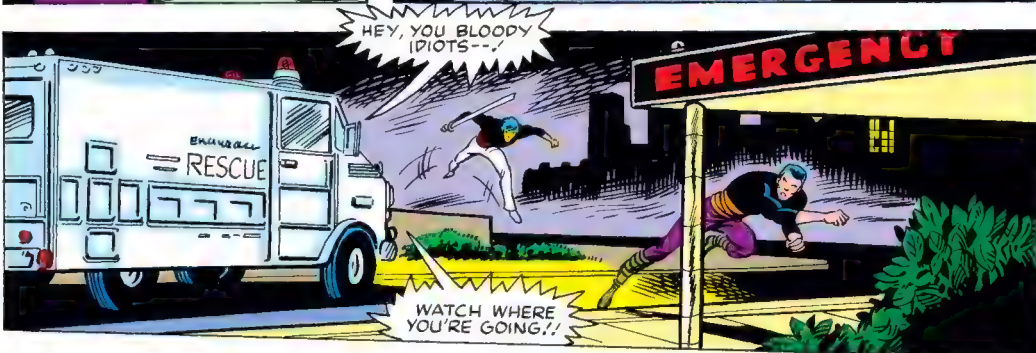


"I HAVE ALREADY RUN FAR, MY HEART FEELS IT..."

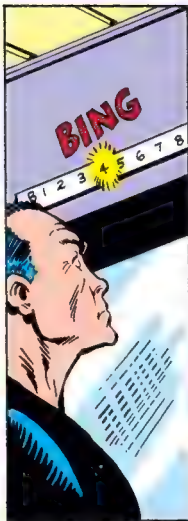
"STILL, THERE IS NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN FARTHER--"



"--WITHOUT PAUSING, WITHOUT TIRING, WITHOUT THINKING..."



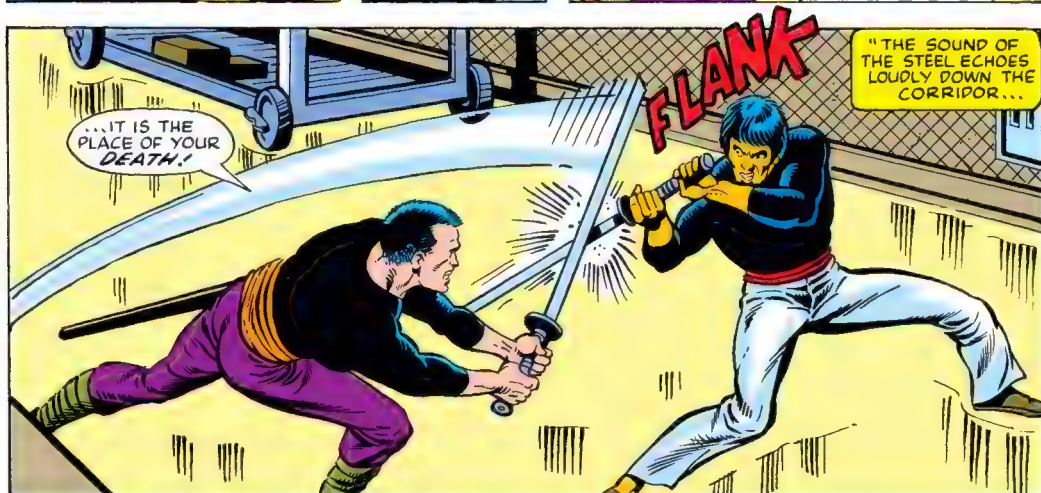
"AND SO, I MUST SIMPLY OUTPACE IT."



YES, ASSASSIN.

THIS IS THE RIGHT FLOOR.

AND, TOO, CHINESE...



...IT IS THE PLACE OF YOUR DEATH!

FLANK

"THE SOUND OF THE STEEL ECHOES LOUDLY DOWN THE CORRIDOR..."



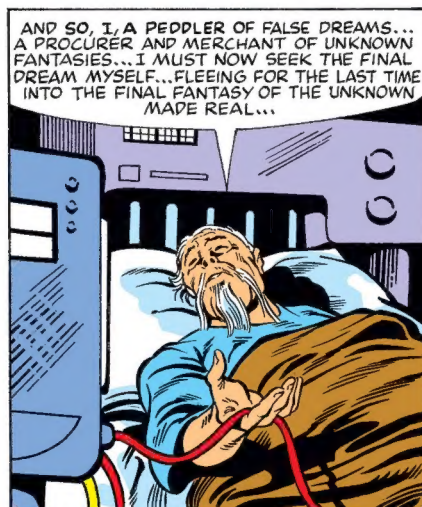
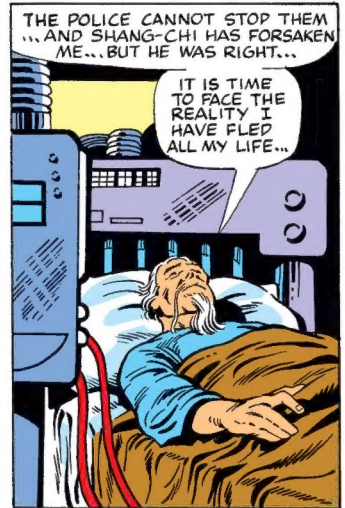
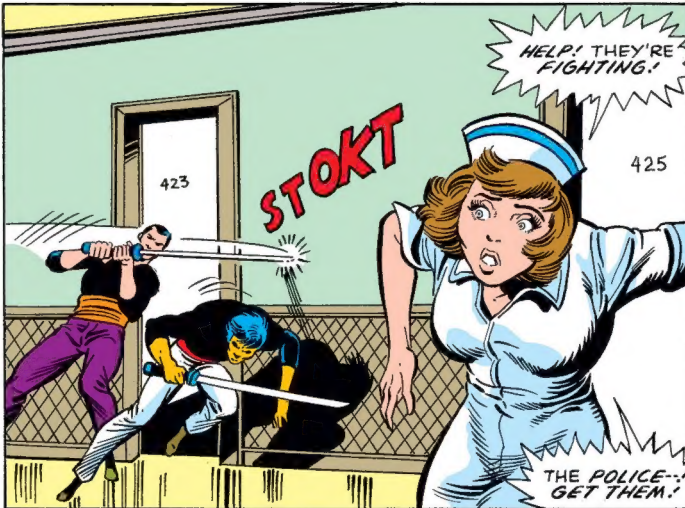
THEN... THEY ARE BACK... THEY'VE COME FOR ME AGAIN... AND THIS TIME THERE IS NO ONE TO STOP THEM...

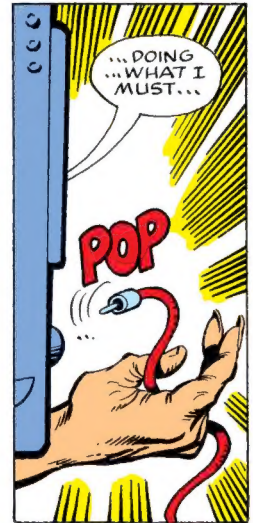
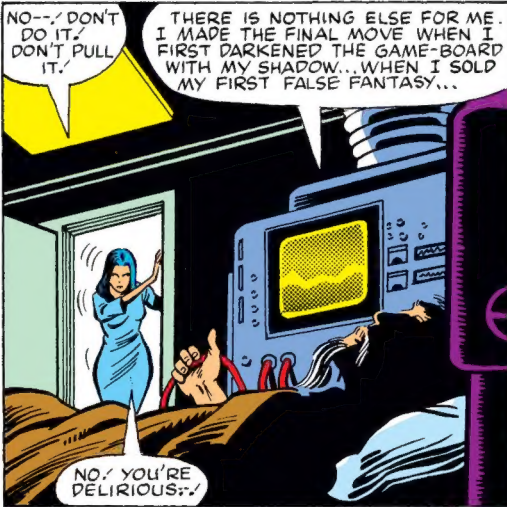


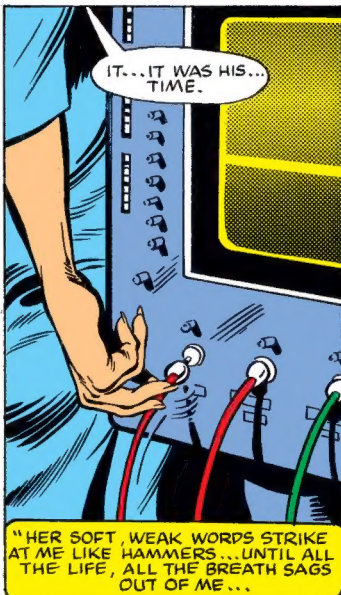
WUNT



THOSE SOUNDS-- THE OLD MAN... THE ONE THEY TRIED TO KILL... GOT TO GET TO HIM...







MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
BOB BUDIANSKY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Doug,

MASTER OF KUNG FU #96 — "Carter's Super Midnight" — is yet another good, solid, self-contained issue.

However, I hope I don't sound cruel if I ask you to lay off the homilies for a while. I realize, from reading the letters page, that this book can often touch and elevate people, but if you read closely you'll see that they were touched not by a lecture — not by the "moral" of the story — but by a well-written line or two hitting them at a particularly receptive time in their lives. This kind of reader identification is subtle and unexpected — and welcome. Lately, however, you've written some stories that are too blatant, in that your "message" is pounded into the reader's skull in order to "help" them. This issue, for example, dealt with the handicapped, the last three with young people in cults, and before that with young people in gangs. Subtle? No. Touching? No. Sentimental? Yes! Though #96 featured an excellent story and well thought-out character relationships, there were also plenty of lectures and formal speeches. Nice for *Reader's Digest*, but not the MOKF I've been reading lately.

I should end this letter by saying how much I enjoy the book nonetheless. It's probably the most powerful, yet grossly underrated, comic on the stands today. Keep up the good work... but lay off the "message" stuff.

Glenn Dressler
RR #2 Box 191AA
Kankakee, IL 60901

Friends,

The last few issues of MASTER OF KUNG FU have left me thinking about Leiko with some disturbance. This girl, once the most interesting female in the Marvel Universe, is becoming boring.

Maybe the problem, Doug, is that your concept of her doesn't match mine. If so, I like my image better.

I'm not talking about sex roles at all, which are still handled well. Very well. It's just that it's hard to reconcile the Leiko I thought I knew with this "new" Leiko. She was once an exceptionally adept superspy — and al-

though you have skillfully played with, and undermined, that concept, it was nevertheless the source of her developing personality. The sultry sophisticated whom Shang-Chi met in the bathtub, the girl who broke Res-ton's heart and Mordillo's mind and then found a sort of peace with Shang-Chi... where is she?

She now echoes Shang-Chi's philosophy, but it sounds false coming from her. She may indeed approve of it, but it is foreign to her established personality. She was not brought up in a Honan, China retreat, but in busy, brutal cities. She could not have had many illusions, all the more reason for Shang-Chi's sincerity to hold appeal for her. Indeed, she was probably too clever for her own good. She believed ends justified means. She was a troubleshooter and adventuress, reckless, ruthless, restless.

This has not really changed, as recent adventures in Morocco demonstrate. She is also a good person, and always has been. But there is no reason for her to live on Shang-Chi's terms, even if they are lovers. Even if she admires his attitudes.

In other words, Shang-Chi is a philosopher forced by fate into action for the sake of his philosophy. Leiko Wu is an activist.

I see potential for interesting conflict here, while these two, loving and respecting one another, embrace different values... particularly with Clive Reston hovering on the edges — that being a love triangle I would not like to see permanently resolved. It's too good to be totally eliminated.

Finally, I would not like to see Leiko become a contented homemaker (though the potential is there), or a person content to go sightseeing in a city riddled with crime and violence, or even a spokesman reiterating Shang-Chi's views. She is not a person for words and rhetoric. Let her take her chances. Let her act, even when Shang-Chi would not approve. She is capable of making her own judgments.

Elizabeth Holden
211 Sunnyside Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 0R4

Points well taken, Elizabeth. Keep watching.

GET READY FOR THE GREATEST FIGHTING DUO OF ALL!



POWER MAN AND IRON FIST

ON SALE NOW!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #76 — Giant-Man and the Iceman join the ever-living, blue-eyed Thing! | ☐ THOR #308 — Loki and Kamilla attack New York! | ☐ ROM #19 — ROM is trapped in Limbo — with all his old foes! | ☐ MARVEL PREMIERE #60 — Featuring... Dr. Who! Cover painting by Paul Gulacy. |
| ☐ SPIDER-WOMAN #38 — Guest-starring the uncanny X-Men! | ☐ MICRONAUTS #30 — "To Save Homeworld!" | ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #70 — Cage and the Fist hot on the trail of drug smugglers! | ☐ SGT. FURY #164 — (Reprints Sgt. Fury #70) — Meet: the Missouri Ma-raders! |
| ☐ STAR TREK #14 — "We Are Dying, Egypt, Dying!" | ☐ GHOST RIDER #57 — Enter: The Apparition! | ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #231 — Stygius blasts the Baxter Building into the Negative Zone! | ☐ WHAT IF #27 — "What if Phoenix Had Lived?" |
| ☐ DAREDEVIL #171 — DD vs. the Kingpin! | ☐ SAVAGE SHE-HULK #17 — "Make Way for...the Man-Elephant!" | ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #106 — Spidey and Captain America! | |
| ☐ MARVEL SUPER HEROES #98 — (Reprints Hulk #149) — "The Inheritor from Beyond!" | ☐ MOON KNIGHT #8 — Moon Knight goes mad! | ☐ IRON MAN #147 — A crisis called... <i>Blacklash</i> ! | |
| ☐ DAZZLER #4 — Final battle with Dr. Doom! Plus: <i>Nightmare</i> ! | ☐ DR. STRANGE #47 — Dr. Strange — powerless against Ikonn, the master of illusion! | ☐ PETER PARKER #55 — The menace of Nitro, the Exploding Man! | |
| ☐ KAZAR #3 — The fear-fraught fate of Shantal! | ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #260 — Show-down in Japan with Glenn Talbot! | ☐ DEFENDERS #96 — The Defenders and Ghost Rider at the mercy of the Six-Fingered Hand! | |
| ☐ KING CONAN #6 — Conan's quest for his kidnapped queen! | ☐ AVENGERS #208 — The mad menace of the eternal warrior called the Berserker! | ☐ MARVEL SUPER ACTION #32 — (Reprints: Avengers #71) — The Avengers and the Black Knight vs. The Grand-Master and Kang! | |
| ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #217 — Sand-Man and Hydro-Man team up and attack! | ☐ CONAN #123 — "Horror Beneath the Hills!" | ☐ STAR WARS #48 — Leia and Vader play a strange game of power, propaganda... and Death! | |
| ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #258 — Who is...Blockbuster? | ☐ MARVEL TALES #128 — (Reprints Spider-Man #151) — The shocking return of a surprise super-villain! | ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #101 — "Not Smoke, Nor Beads, Nor Blood!" | |
| | ☐ X-MEN #146 — The old and new X-Men at the mercy of Dr. Doom! Plus: Arcade! | | |

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **CRAZY #74** — "Crazy Cars of the Future"; "Finger vs. Finger"; "The Elephant Man!"; a "Dallas" parody; Kinetic Kids; Obnoxio; Howard the Duck; and more. Whew!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #64** — The terrible secret of the "Children of Rhan!"
- ☐ **MARVEL PREVIEW #26** — King Kull stars in Doug Moench and John Bolton's "Demon in a Silvered Glass", featuring some of the finest artwork to ever grace a Marvel production. And the writing ain't nothin' to sneeze at, either!